

A Successful Silo.

AN INTERESTING LETTER FROM DR. HARRISON, OF NEEPAWA, MANITOBA.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

DEAR SIR,—I have yours of 27th inst., asking about our success in making ensilage at our stock farm, at Newdale, on the M. & N. W. Ry. I may say that it met our fullest expectation. We (for I have a partner, Mr. John L. Cook) were led to go into cattle breeding from so many store cattle being in the country and no market for them, since the scheduling of Canadian cattle. Before making a move, we visited Mr. Bedford, of the Experimental Farm, at Brandon, to learn how making ensilage had succeeded with him, because we felt that this was the key to the whole business. So confident were we after our interview with him, that we put up a large bank barn, 60 x 70, stone foundation, basement to hold 56 head, with nine-foot ceiling, and an addition one storey to hold 60 head more. In the north-east and north-west corners of the barn, we placed our silos, 11 x 12 feet inside and 24 feet deep, by placing in end joists 2x10, 16 in centre, and lining first with good, dry shiplaps, then a coat of building paper, and then another course of shiplaps; this completed the silos. They rest on the ground in the basement, and extend up into the barn above. The floors of the silos are puddled clay, which got smooth and hard.

We planted twelve acres North Dakota flint corn on the 25th and 26th May, on good, well-worked out stubble land. The summer treatment of the corn was as advised by Mr. Bedford. By the 20th of August we had a full stand of corn averaging about six feet; the corn was glazing in the cob. This we cut and bound in loose sheaves with a Massey-Harris open back binder on 21st and 22nd August, and in the following days drew in and put through the cutting box and elevated into one silo, filling it to the top, and next day when it had settled we covered with layers of cut hay two feet deep, to exclude air. We opened the silo about 10th November, and found that we had not over 200 pounds of waste, the balance to last feed was as good as I ever saw. About freezing, there is no danger; it is hot enough to hold in any weather, except perhaps a little on the top after the cover is off, but that does not hurt. We tied our cattle in, 116 head, about 1st November, they took to the ensilage at once, and began thriving as they would have done in good rich pasture. We were sorry we had not more. This year we are putting in fifteen acres peas and oats, and same of corn, for ensilage. The peas and oats will go in bottom, corn on top, and have no fears of result. The Dakota corn is a good, hardy variety, and if well-worked and kept clean will give an abundant return. As to cost of silo, anyone can work out the size he wants and prices of lumber. As to cost of corn, that depends a good deal on who works it, and how he manages, same as any other crop.

I agree with you that cattle feeding must in the near future be one of our important industries, and that its success depends a great deal on ensilage; roots are too expensive. Our coarse grains must be condensed into cattle, hogs, butter and cheese, to overcome our excessive freight rates. This is one of the ways to beat the C. P. R. Again, no land will stand successive croppings of wheat, it must wear out. The sooner our farmers look these facts in the face and lay their course accordingly, the fewer of them will complain of hard times and short crops.

Yours very truly,

D. H. HARRISON, of Harrison & Cook,
Newdale, Man.

Flax Growing.

BY BOB BARCLAY, BALMORAL.

I should have liked to have seen more notice of this crop in the columns of your very useful periodical, and regret that some of our enterprising brethren do not extend to us their various experiences.

From what I know I would strongly recommend every farmer to give it a trial this season, if they should only try as much as serves their own home wants, as this would not only be a good test, but also would insure them having their cattle, sheep and hogs in the best of order and health. This cereal does well on almost any class of ordinary soil. It is most useful upon breaking in, thoroughly pulverizing and leaving the land in excellent order for wheat. But as a matter of course, it yields a heavier and finer crop upon old or cultivated ground. I could give you many instances where it has done well in the province, but will content myself by relating the experience of Mr. A. Wood, of Foxton. He has grown flax for the last seven years. At first he confined himself to an acre or two for his own requirements, but finding it do so well he tried six acres in 1892, which yielded him 130 bushels; and last year he sowed nine and a-half acres, from which he threshed out 200 bushels. His two last crops followed oats; he allowed one bushel of seed per acre. He had no difficulty in selling out all he grew at \$1.25 per bushel, mostly for seed. These are facts worth knowing. How is it that so few of our intelligent farmers do not grow more flax? Mr. Wood says he is going to put down twenty acres in it this year.

A Pointer for Young Men with Limited Capital.

Editor of FARMER'S ADVOCATE:—

DEAR SIR,—You kindly asked me some time ago to let you know what I thought of the Northwest as a home for young men with very limited capital. I shall now try and give you a short account of what I think to be one of the best and safest ways for a young man to start out here. I would advise all such to take a situation, say on a sheep ranch if possible, that is to say if he inclines to sheep. He will be able to earn \$30 per month or so. These earnings he can put into sheep in the fall of the year and hand them over to some person who will take them on shares from him, the person having himself a small flock, but not enough to give his whole attention to (this addition, with perhaps another such, will enable him to do so.) He must, however, have a written agreement with the party who takes them in hand. I enclose such an agreement, which you can use at your discretion.

Yours, &c., T. M. B.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN A AND B, ALTA., N. W. T.,
DATE, 1ST OCT., 189...

A agrees to take care of one hundred yearling ewes (said ewes being the property of B) and their increase for the term of three years from the date hereof. He will provide all the feed, shelter and rams necessary for said sheep, shear them, sack or ball the wool, and deliver it yearly for shipment at whatever railway station he ships his own from. He will bear any loss there may be among the original hundred (100) sheep, and will, on or about the 1st Sept. of each year during the term of this agreement, make good any such losses with other sheep of about the same description and value. As recompense for this service he agrees to accept one-half the lambs and one-half the wool from B's sheep. The division of lambs and wool shall be made as follows: At lambing time the said A will mark with paint all the lambs dropped by B's ewes, and at weaning time, say on or about the 1st Sept., these shall be divided as equally as possible with regard both to quality and sex, and the said A will then mark those allotted to B with a notch cut in front of one ear, or the same mark as the original (100) sheep. If said B cannot be conveniently present at the dividing of the lambs, O will act for him, and, in any emergency affecting these sheep, the said A is authorized to consult said O, and to act upon any suggestion he makes. At time of shearing the sheep owned by B shall be separated from all others, and the wool shorn from them kept and packed by itself and shall then be equally divided. At end of every season, say immediately after weaning, the said A will make an accurate inventory showing exactly the number and approximately the ages of all the sheep belonging to B then in his possession, and will mail a copy of said inventory to said B. Should the said A at any time think it desirable to dispose of any defective sheep from B's lot he is at liberty to do so, and will replace them from his own bunch or account satisfactorily to B for them.

(Signed) A.
B.

Prize Essays on Weeds.

The following notice has been received from the Department of Agriculture, and is one of the results of the animated discussions that took place in the House during last session on the all-important topic—weeds.

We understand it is the intention of the Department to publish the prize essays in bulletin form, along with other information pertaining to weeds; also illustrations of the most important varieties. In the circular, two important weeds have been omitted: The rag weed, or as it is often called the club weed, is becoming a very troublesome pest in many parts of the country; the seed is about the same size as wheat and very difficult to clean out of wheat. We are surprised that this weed is not included in the act among the noxious weeds, as it is much worse than wild buckwheat, and the tumble weed (Indian Head variety) is as near our borders as is the Russian thistle, and should receive a share of attention.

The following is the circular:—

"In order to direct the attention of farmers in Manitoba to the dangers arising from the spread of noxious weeds throughout the province, I have decided to offer prizes for the best essays on 'Manitoba Weeds and How to Destroy Them,' as follows:—

1st Prize.....	Cash.....	\$25.00.
2nd ".....	".....	15.00.
3rd ".....	".....	10.00.

Prizes may be competed for by any resident of the province. Special notice is given to all the Farmers' Institutes in the province, with the hope that many essays may come from the members.

It is requested that the list of weeds be confined to French Weed, Canada Thistle, Wild Mustard, Wild Oats, Wild Buckwheat, Couch Grass and Russian Thistle.

The most practical information in the smallest compass of words is wanted.

Essays must be sent to the Department of Agriculture and Immigration on or before the 1st day of June, 1894. Mark envelope "Essay, Noxious Weeds."

The essays will be submitted to a committee of practical men, who will award the prizes.

When prizes are awarded, the prize essays will be published in bulletin form for general information to the public.

THOS. GREENWAY,
Minister of Agriculture and Immigration.

The Institutes.

LITTLE MOUNTAIN

Farmers' Institute, to be organized on April 25th, at 4 o'clock p. m., in the Little Mountain school house, in the municipality of Rosser, just a few miles west of Winnipeg.

NAPINKA

Farmers' Institute, to be organized in Graham's Hall, Napinka, on May 1st, at 7 o'clock in the evening.

BOISSEVAIN

Farmers' Institute, to be organized in the Masonic Hall, Boissevain, on May 2nd, at 1 o'clock p. m.

BELMONT

Institute turned out in large numbers to hear Mr. Bedford's lecture on March 26th. All thoroughly appreciated the lecture.

KILDONAN

Institute held their second meeting on March 22nd, when able and interesting papers were read by Thos. McIntosh on "Potato Culture" and by P. McColman on "Root Culture." Lively discussion followed.

BRANDON.

The last winter meeting was held on March 24th. After the reading by Mr. Wilson of his excellent paper on "Agriculture in the Public Schools," which appears in another column, the following discussion took place:—

Mr. Leech, sr., said he regretted that it had taken him all his life to learn what might to a certain extent have been learned in a few years. Mr. Keaster was opposed to pen and ink farmers. Men wanted to be practical and should be able to learn all they needed to know between the plough handles. He had done well every year he had been in Manitoba. He thought that the time in schools might be more profitably spent than in teaching agriculture. Mr. Wilson said he agreed with Mr. Keaster that agriculture should be practical; it should be taught in no other way. He explained that it could take the place of other subjects that were taught at present that were no use, and emphasized that the text book should not be put in the hands of the pupils. Mr. Cliff, an old school teacher, was called on, and he pointed out the benefit of practical teaching, instancing botany; that if the plant was in the school room the lesson was taught in much less time than from the text book and had a more lasting effect. He said education in a calling improves a man in that calling, but that does not say he was intended for it. It was a great mistake putting children at a calling for which they were not intended. H. Nicol thoroughly believed in agricultural education. He thought children must be dull indeed if such education did not do them good. He did not see how education of any kind could do anything but good. He thought farmers did not value their calling as they should. They should look on themselves as the most important factor in this country. Mr. Noble, of Blythe Institute, was at one with Mr. Wilson's paper. He thought the farmers lacked scientific knowledge. He had never farmed till he came to Manitoba twelve years ago. He had learned more by attending institutes and reading in the last year than in the eleven previous ones. He thought farmers were in the dark. He instanced France and what agricultural education had done for her, and as we were so far from market our margins were small, and we therefore needed it more. He hoped it would not be long before his children were studying agriculture at school. The discussion closed by D. F. Wilson reading a paper on the subject, which we hope to publish in an early issue.

The following resolution was passed:—"That this institute heartily concurs with the resolution passed by the Local Legislature regarding agricultural education, but regret that they did not take some immediate definite action in the matter.

BIRD'S HILL

Farmers' Institute was organized on April 4th, with a membership of 30. R. E. A. Leech, Secretary of Central, officiated as master of ceremonies, and the election of officers resulted as follows:—President, R. R. Taylor; vice-president, George Chudleigh; secretary-treasurer, Wm. Walter. Directors—Miss C. Cutton, E. Hoddinott, J. B. Ashley, N. S. McGregor, W. S. Lister, J. N. Bottomly. Auditors—Henry Taylor and A. J. Kayle. Mr. Waugh then addressed the meeting on gardening, after which Mr. H. McKellar, Chief Clerk of the Department of Agriculture, delivered an interesting address on general farm topics, which was well received, after which the meeting adjourned to meet again on the 28th inst., at 7.30 p. m.

A Patrons' Supply Company.

Notice is given in the last Manitoba Gazette for incorporation of "The Patrons' Commercial Union," to carry on the business of dealers in farmers' supplies, agricultural implements, and in grain and farm produce. Portage la Prairie to be headquarters; capital stock, \$100,000, in \$25 shares. The applicants are: C. Braithwaite, W. C. Graham, O. J. Green, Portage la Prairie; K. McKenzie, sr., Burnside; Wm. Cowler, Poplar Point; F. McArthur, Westbourne; D. W. McCuaig, Oakland—all farmers.